

Brief Notes

Worldly influences in the home are apt to be spontaneous. Moral religious influences must be supplied with distinct purpose and effort.

The family altar is a perennial fountain of these good influences. Next in importance comes the religious paper. Parents who are willing to deprive their children of these two anchors of character, are willing to see them take all the chances of going astray.

Charles Dickens, the great novelist, wrote to his son as follows: "I put a New Testament among your books, because it is the best book that ever was, or will be in the world, and because it teaches you the best lessons by which any human creature can possibly be guided." Christian parents ought to think as well of it as the novelist, and ought to read it and commend it to their children.

Ian MacLaren says of the American church, that it is dominated by the secular spirit, that often a minister's work is judged, not by its spirituality, but by its smartness, and that the man who creates the greatest sensation is judged a better minister of souls than he who builds up character. These and other impressions not much better were made on the mind of the great preacher during a recent visit to America. Did he see any Brethren churches?

Chicago capitalists have organized a chair trust, which according to the supposed effect of all trusts will raise the price of sitting down. Perhaps this will not be a very bad idea. The trusts ought to be good for something, and maybe this chair trust will redeem the rather bad reputation of its kind. To make sitting down too expensive may stimulate more profitable activities along several lines. We hope it will have such a salutary effect upon all our agents as to greatly increase the subscription list of the EVANGELIST, even to the 3000 mark.

A noted political speaker was recently scheduled to speak thirty times in one day of 14 hours, and it was estimated that at least 30,000 people would hear him. Give us gospel orators like the phenomenal talker, and soon the world will hear the glad tidings. Suppose a thousand preachers with the mental and physical equipment of this political giant, and what is more to the point, with *enthusiasm* and *earnestness*, should spread the gospel with such prodigious energy and activity?

Somebody once said to D. L. Moody: "Have you grace enough to be burned at the stake?" "No," was the reply. "Do you not wish you had?" "No, sir, for I do not need it. What I need just now is grace enough to live in Milwaukee three days and hold a convention."

The protest of the New York prize fighters against the brutality of football has a refreshing flavor. It is a little like the old controversy between the pot and the kettle, only it is rather hard in this instance to distinguish which is the pot and which the kettle. Athletics is a good and useful thing, but there seems to be a sort of affinity between atheletics, as it is popularly illustrated, and coarseness, rowdiness and brutality. There seems to be a wonderful vitality in the gorilla side of human nature.

A magician who promised his audience to let them see how he could catch a real bullet in his teeth, fired at him from a real gun, carried out the program. But it is his last performance, since a real bullet was actually fired at him instead of the sham bullet he had intended. It was a fatal mistake, but behind the material mistake was the moral one of deception. If he hadn't attempted to practice a lie, he would not have been killed by the truth. The retribution of outraged righteousness is terrible, sometimes.

A wealthy Chicago family suppressed a brilliant novel, written by the daughter, because it brought such a whirlwind of criticism upon the authoress. A novel which could provoke a whirlwind of criticism

in Chicago must have been extremely unsavory. There are many temptations in the path of the talented who write either for fame or for money. *What you do for mere money is a thing to be closely watched*, no matter in what line. Even the business man ought to be conscious of a higher motive, especially the *Christian* business man.

The Rev. Dr. Madison C. Peters, of the Bloomingdale Reformed church, preached on "Christians Who Rob God of Tithes." He declared it to be the worst kind of robbery. He said that it is as strict a religious act to pay tithes as to pray. He said that while the tobacco bills of the country are \$500,000,000, annually, the income of missionary societies is but \$14,000,000, and he looked upon the many murders and robberies as judgments of God.

A boy fell partly over a precipice, and was rescued with great difficulty by means of a "human chain." That is, a number of men clinging to each other, hands to feet, formed a chain which extended over the precipice until the last man could reach the boy, and start him climbing up the chain to safety. Very much in the same way are souls saved. The church, every church, ought to be a strong *human chain*, all the members clinging together in fraternal bonds, and with the especial object of saving sinners who are fallen down precipices. See now if you cannot make such an efficient chain of your church.

In a large city considerable excitement was recently caused by a lady dropping a \$250.00 diamond ring in a gutter where at the time mud and filth was running. A number of men and boys, stimulated by the offered reward, eagerly searched for the ring until it was found, and restored to the beautiful white hand of the fair owner. But in that same city thousands of immortal souls are lost in the gutters, and there doesn't seem to be very much excitement about it. Immense rewards are advertised for the recovery of these souls, more precious than all the diamonds in the world, but not many people seem to be anxious to win the reward. What can be the matter with those good people?

We will all have to revise our ideas of international politics, diplomatic quarrels and causes of war. The South African war now in bloody progress is based upon two words; they are fighting about "paramountcy" and "suzerainty." Think of it, ye readers of history. The dictionary will tell you more about this war than the newspapers, but even after consulting the dictionary it is a question whether one will know more about it than before. The most difficult thing of all is to harmonize these brutal and bloody butcheries with the alleged "progress of civilization." We give it up.

It is rather startling to read of human sacrifices so near our shores as the West Indian island of Dominica, where a child was sacrificed by a native to his "Mumbo Jumbo," in connection with a search for alleged hidden treasure. It seems that a very gross superstition, equivalent to the most abhorrent type of idolatry, prevails among some of the inhabitants, of which this terrible tragedy is an illustration. But what material difference is there between the sacrifice of a child to superstition, and the sacrifice of thousands of men to political passion?

A collision of two ferry boats at New York, resulting in considerable loss of life, is charged to the carelessness of the captains of both boats, each of whom it is said disregarded the warning signals of the other. It is thus with many of the collisions between neighbors, church members, and other good people who ought to live on terms of good will and brotherhood. Much of the trouble is caused by carelessness of the ordinary courtesies and proprieties which ought always to prevail between man and man, and also by disregard of the danger signals of conscience, good sense, self respect and personal dignity. The man who forges ahead regardless of other people's rights or feelings is mighty apt to run against somebody.

Information Bureau

In this department an effort will be made to give correct answers to any reasonable questions, and reliable information on topics concerning which inquiry may be made. Name and address must accompany all inquiries, not for publication, but for our protection.

1. *By what mode does the Greek church baptize? Is it affusion, or single immersion, or trine immersion? Which of the above modes does the Greek church practice to-day?*

This query was sent, by one of our readers, to the *Toledo Blade* and an answer requested. The answer given by this paper does not seem to be satisfactory to the querist, hence it was sent to this office for a reply thru the EVANGELIST. Following is the answer of the *Blade*: "The Greek church practices both trine immersion and sprinkling." Just where the *Blade* gets its authority for this statement we cannot tell. We have never yet been able to find it. One of the latest and very best authorities on Biblical subjects of any kind is "Dictionary of the Bible," edited by James Hastings. From volume 1, page 243, we quote the following: "In the Eastern Churches trine emmersion is regarded as the only valid form of baptism; and the Catechism explains that this trine immersion is a figure of the three days' burial of our Savior, and his resurrection." With this agree all the authorities it has been our privilege to examine, and they are not a few. The statement that the Greek Church practices either immersion or sprinkling is therefore unwarranted and without adequate proof.

2. *With what political part should I vote?*

This query comes from a brother (apparently a brother) in Nebraska, who lives isolated and seemingly has no one to advise in matters of this kind. Along with the query is a long letter of explanation, giving reasons for asking such a question. Some, he says, tell him to vote the Populist ticket, others tell him to vote the Republican ticket, others the Democratic-Populist or Fusion ticket, while still others tell him that a man can't vote either of the three just named and be a Christian. They insist that the only proper thing to do is to vote the Prohibition ticket. All variety of faiths, political and religious, are pressing their claims upon him. We regret that we can not give the brother the information he desires; and as to advice, it is an extremely delicate matter to do, when it comes to one's political faith. If the querist had asked us with what church he should unite, the whole brotherhood would give us credit for directing him in the way of our own faith, but what a political hornets' nest if thru a religious and denominational paper the editor were to give instructions as to what ticket a man should vote! This however we can say to our brother, vote with that party which in your judgment best serves the interests of all the people, the party that stands in opposition to iniquity in all its forms, and that has the conscience and the power to make good its promises. As to which that party is, if such there be any, let every voter be his own judge.

3. *Why do the Brethren observe the ordinance of footwashing before the supper?*

Because that seems most in harmony with the way Jesus himself gave the example. In John 13: 2 the Authorized Version reads, "And supper being ended." There are several renderings of this expression, but no one means "being ended." The fact is the supper was not ended as may be seen from verse 26. One reading is, "supper having begun;" another is, "when supper was at hand," or "when supper was beginning." It will thus be seen that the Brethren observe the order of the gospel, and this of course answers the question why footwashing precedes the supper.

4. *Is it right to commune with other denominations and to have them commune with us?*

This must be a matter for each one to determine for himself. Let each one examine himself, and make sure that he discerns the Lord's body, and so let him eat and drink.